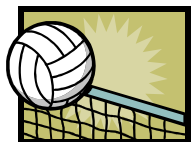




President's Message



Welcome back from the March Break. Hopefully you have had a chance to rest and recharge as we head into the final third of the school year. For the past several weeks, OCETF Released Officers have been visiting many schools, giving presentations on the status of negotiations. No matter what the venue, whether a large urban K-8 school or the tiniest rural location, staffs have been unanimous in their message that these meetings have been of great benefit. If your school has not arranged an information session already, please speak with your school Steward should you wish one scheduled. As always, I would urge members to read all Negotiations Bulletins so that you are well informed as to what is happening. After all, it's your contract and it's in your best interest to know how matters are progressing. Two major Board initiatives of particular interest to our members are the Intermediate Review and Kindergarten Assessment in the form of the now infamous ELOT. Currently the Intermediate Review is looking at program delivery models that exists within the intermediate division in elementary schools throughout the system. OCETF has arranged with the Board to have a focus group of teachers who will provide input related to teacher concerns. On March 10th, First Vice-President Janet Fraser organized a meeting of Kindergarten teachers to gather information and hear concerns about the new ELOT assessment program. The room was filled to overflowing with teachers and member after member voiced serious concerns, pointing out major problems and pedagogic flaws in the assumptions of the tool. Thank you very much to all of you who took the time to come and help us advocate on your behalf. On a final note, the April 3rd interview PD day is fast approaching and we all know that teachers have been working incredible hours finalizing reports and preparing to meet parents. Please remember that life balance is important so perhaps you'll want to set aside time to join us at the OCETF Wellness Committee's annual Volleyball Tournament on April 17th. It's always a great time.



OCETF Volleyball Tournament **[Friday, April 17th](#)**

Three Divisions - Competitive, Recreational and Beginner

Please go to the OCETF folder on BEAM for all of the details.

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, March 31st
Contact—Brad Strong



2009 Awards & Bursaries

These awards are available to all teachers. Read the criteria and see if you know of any teachers you could nominate. Please visit the OCETF website or the OCETF folder to download the forms, criteria and guidelines.

Deadline for submission is Friday, April 24th

Awards & Bursaries will be presented at our Annual OCETF Awards Reception—May 14th, RA Centre.



News Release

Mortgage lenders have their way. OTIP has yours.

WATERLOO, ON (February 23, 2009) – Introducing LifePlan 10, a new alternative to mortgage insurance

When insuring a loan for the value of your home, your decision deserves more thought than just checking a box. OTIP LifePlan 10, underwritten by Manulife Financial, offers the same easy application as traditional mortgage insurance offered by most lenders, but with value that provides true protection. Apply online or learn more at www.manulife.com/otip.

Down with declining values!

Mortgage insurance is tied to the value of your loan, so as you pay down your mortgage, the value of your policy decreases. Unlike traditional mortgage insurance, OTIP LifePlan10 is a term life insurance solution, which means the value of your policy stays the same no matter how your mortgage changes. Whether you switch lenders, renegotiate your mortgage, or even buy a different home, the value of your policy remains unchanged. Why pay premiums for mortgage insurance if the value of your policy will eventually be zero?



With mortgage insurance, the company providing the loan is the beneficiary, so the value of the policy is paid directly to the lender. With OTIP LifePlan 10, your policy's benefit is paid directly to the beneficiaries of your choice, such as your spouse or children. They can decide how to best use the funds, whether it's to pay the remaining balance on your mortgage or to take care of other financial obligations.



Stability and simplicity

With OTIP LifePlan 10, there's no need to worry about yearly premium increases – premiums will only change when you renew your policy every 10 years. You can renew your policy until age 75, guaranteed, and enjoy coverage until your 85th birthday. Use the straight-forward online application and be insured as quickly as today!

OTIP LifePlan 10 helps get you there

Get a quote for OTIP LifePlan 10 and receive five AIR MILES® reward miles! - Apply online or learn more at www.manulife.com/otip.

OTIP Contact

Jenna Hennessy or Pamela Youngberg

Communications Specialist Senior Communications Consultant

Phone: 1.877.260.3892, ext. 2605 or Phone: 1.877.260.3892, ext. 2603

About OTIP

OTIP (Ontario Teachers Insurance Plan) is a non-profit organization providing insurance products and services to educators, school board employees and their families. The organization is directed by a Board of Trustees representing each of Ontario's four education affiliates (AEFO, ETFO, OECTA and OSSTF). OTIP's key values focus on respecting the education community, providing relevant products and services and rewarding members for being part of OTIP. For more information, please visit www.otip.com.



FROM SCHOOLS



Fisher Park / Summit Alternative

Fisher Park/Summit Alternative will be expecting its fourth annual visit of students and accompanying teachers from our friendship school in Nanjing, China. Ninghai Middle School has sent groups of students to our school every spring for the last three years and this year yet another group of 15 students and four teachers are expected. The purpose for the visit is for students to be integrated into classes with Canadian students in order to improve their academic English while also getting to know and understand Canadian culture, schools and living. An important part of this project is the integration into a Canadian family. Canada Homestay International which provides Homestay placements for all international students and groups to the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board is in charge once again of the placement process for the group that is coming at the end of March and staying for two months. Families that are interested in hosting students are encouraged to be in touch with the Homestay agency to offer their assistance. Homestay families are expected to include the visiting student within the family, provide meals and bedroom and in general, introduce the student to Canadian life. An honorarium is provided. For those interested in hosting, please email: hostinfo@canadahomestayinternational.com or contact Suzanne at 613-686-6764, ext #2049.



Terry Fox

On March 10th Terry Fox School celebrated Winter by holding a Winter Carnival. The Primary and Junior grades participated in outdoor activities arranged by a volunteer team of Junior and Intermediate students. The star of the afternoon is the mysterious Bonhomme Carnival. In the two weeks prior to the carnival, students received 5 clues (one each day) as to the identity of the Bonhomme. At the end of the day, the identity of the Bonhomme was revealed at a rally in the Gym. Prizes were awarded by division to the students who correctly guessed which staff member was the Bonhomme. Lucie Labonté, a teacher at Terry Fox co-ordinates this event to celebrate Canadian winter and to foster French culture.

We Want To Know

If you have an interesting event happening at your school please send details to the OCETF office for future newsletter publication c/o Jill Paré.

CBC & Status of Women Jointly Presents

Maternity / Paternity Workshop

Monday, April 6, 2009
4:30 p.m.

Confederation H.S.—
Cafeteria
1645 Woodroffe Ave.



Registration: Cheryl Morris via BEAM.



Political Action Committee Needs You!!

The OCETF Political Action Committee has been inactive for the last few years, as only a few members have expressed interest.

Please contact **Jan Fraser via BEAM** if you are interested in joining the OCETF Political Action Committee. First meeting will be held in April.



A big OCETF thank you to Gay Stonehouse and the students at Hawthorne P.S. for supplying the artwork for the OCETF Office. Gay rotates the artwork every 3 months. The artwork is enjoyed by many teachers and visitors to our office.

HAPPY PASSOVER



HAPPY EASTER



From your
friends at
OCETF.

Nelson Prize Winner - PD Day



Congratulations to **Mary Jane Leguard** from **Steve MacLean P.S.** who won the Nelson Publishing door prize of \$500 of free Nelson resources at the PD Day on February 13th at the Palais des Congrès.